GRØNBEKK • CAFU • D'ARMATA
VENOM WAR
TIE-IN
VENOM
MARVEL
39
LGY#239
RATED T+

"John's art made the most fantastical situations feel grounded and real. His work had a uniquely cinematic quality to it, and we strive to bring to the screen what he masterfully accomplished on the page: characters that, even as they're pulled into extraordinary situations, still seem human and believable. He was a wonderful artist and storyteller, collaborator and friend to so many of our people here at Marvel."

– Kevin Feige
PRESIDENT, MARVEL STUDIOS

"John is one of the defining creative voices of his generation, whose work will be celebrated for years to come. His artistic and design skills were unparalleled, and he moved into otherworldly when you took in his ability to tell a story visually. With all that being said, he was simply a great guy who enjoyed a great meal and a quiet conversation. I will miss John dearly, and I consider myself lucky to have been his friend."

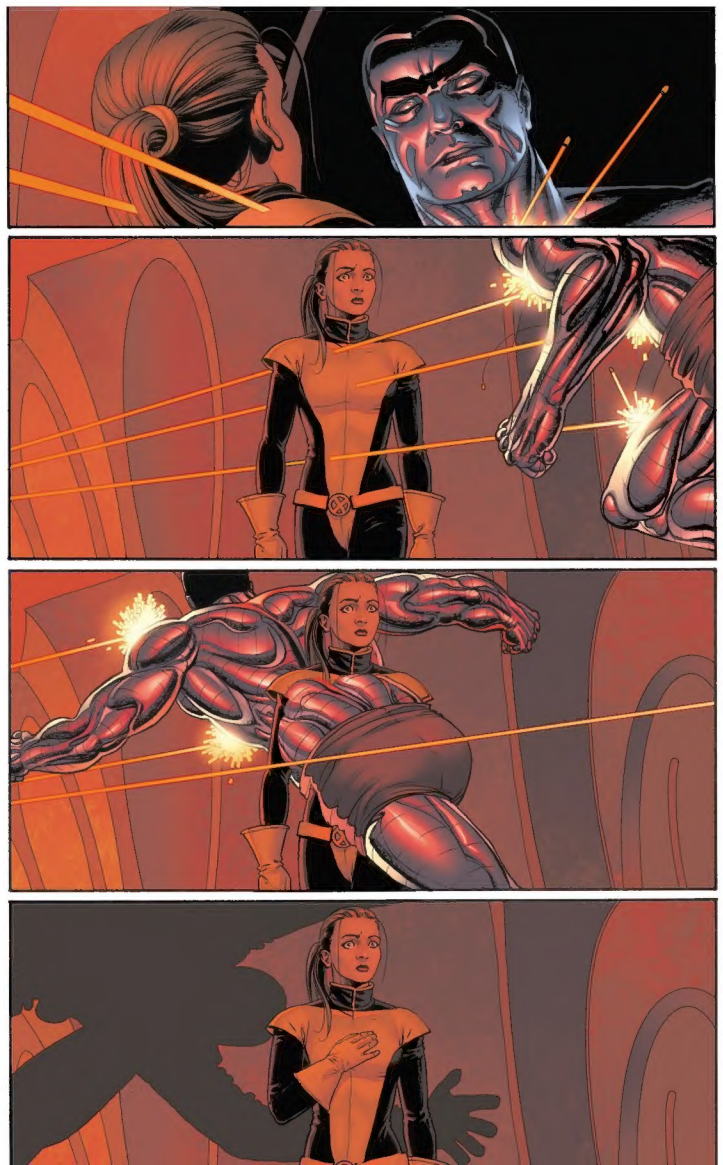
– Dan Buckley
PRESIDENT, MARVEL COMICS & FRANCHISE

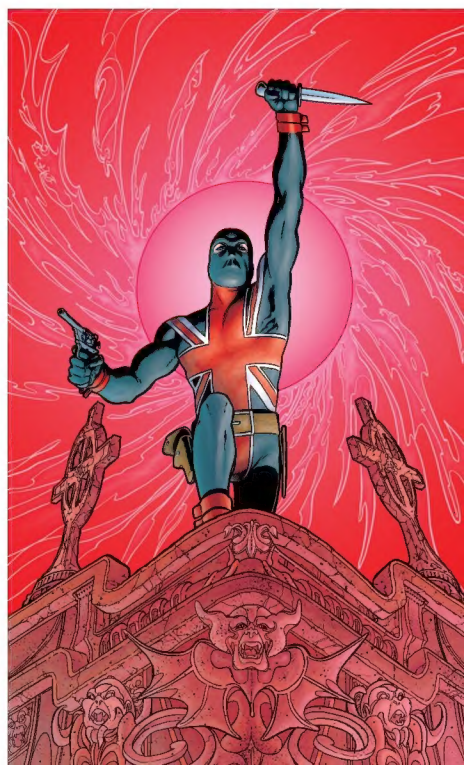
"John approached his art in the same way he did everything in life: fearlessly. It's what made him so good at what he did. From the soft touch needed on certain lines, to the bold bravado of the shots he often chose, John made every page better by putting 100% of himself into every composition and character. His comics truly embody his spirit, and while he's left us far too early, his legacy will live forever in these stories that he loved telling."

– C.B. Cebulski
EDITOR IN CHIEF, MARVEL COMICS

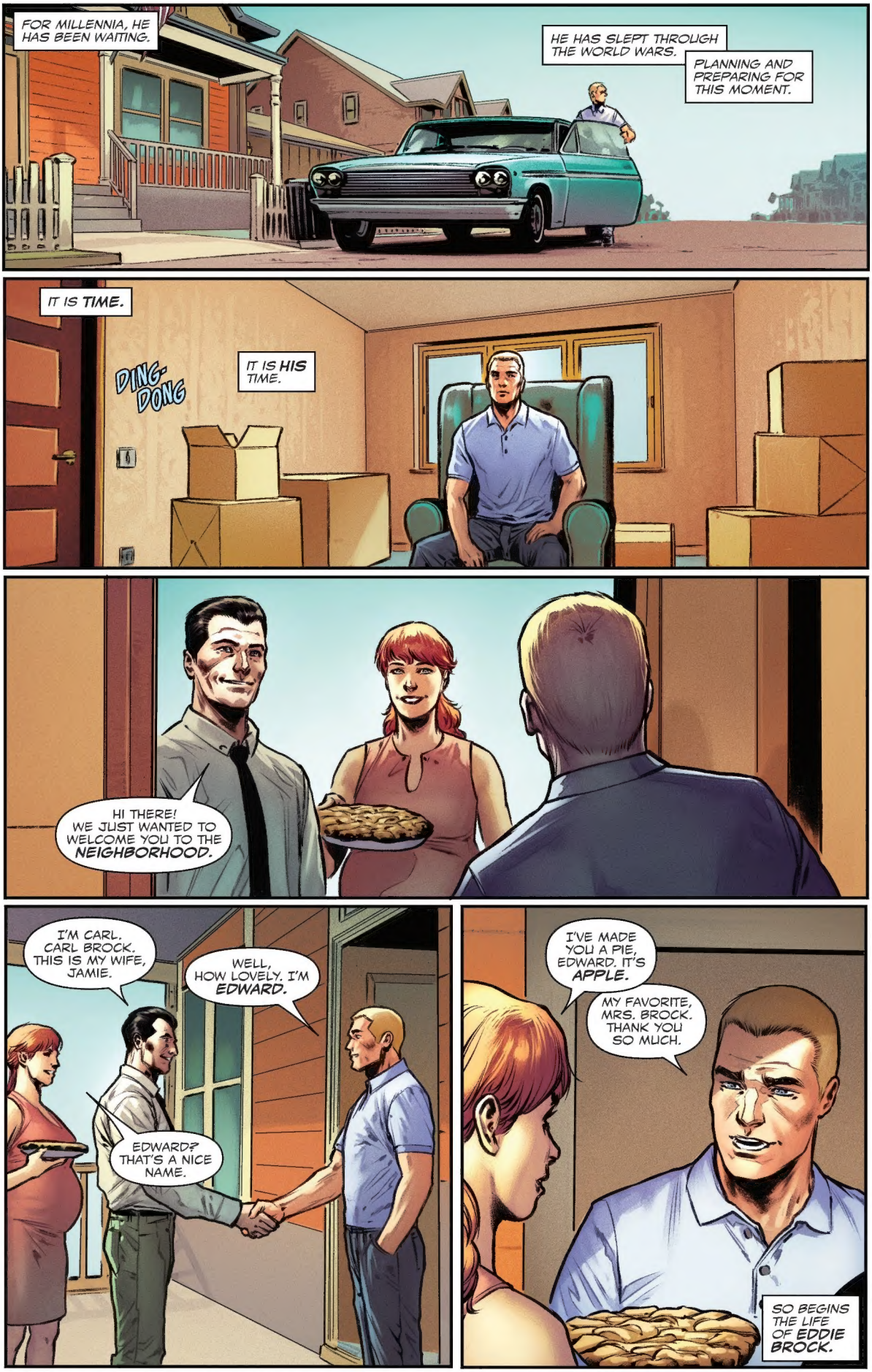
JOHN CASSADAY

PENCILER · INKER · ARTIST · FRIEND





THE WORLD WAS BEAUTIFUL IN THE BEGINNING.
BUT THIS IS NOT HIS TIME. NOT YET.
(BESIDES, HE THINKS, HE CAN DO BETTER.)
SO, MERIDIUS WAITS--
--AND SLEEPS.
IN HIS WAKING MOMENTS, HE RELIVES THE HISTORY OF MEN WITHOUT INTERFERING.
HE FEELS LITTLE AS THEY BUILD, BURN AND KILL EACH OTHER OVER THEIR IMAGINARY DIFFERENCES.
REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKES GENERATION AFTER GENERATION.
THEY EXCUSE IT ALL WITH THEIR IGNORANCE.
THEN JESUS SAID--
--FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DO.
BUT MERIDIUS KNOWS--
--THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW WHAT THEY DO NOW--
--BUT THEY WILL LEARN.
AND IT WILL NOT STOP THEM.


FOR MILLENNIA, HE HAS BEEN WAITING.
HE HAS SLEPT THROUGH THE WORLD WARS.
PLANNING AND PREPARING FOR THIS MOMENT.
IT IS TIME.
DING DONG
IT IS HIS TIME.
HI THERE! WE JUST WANTED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
I'M CARL. CARL BROCK. THIS IS MY WIFE, JAMIE.
WELL, HOW LOVELY. I'M EDWARD.
EDWARD? THAT'S A NICE NAME.
I'VE MADE YOU A PIE, EDWARD. IT'S APPLE.
MY FAVORITE, MRS. BROCK. THANK YOU SO MUCH.
SO BEGINS THE LIFE OF EDDIE BROCK.

VENOM

When **EDDIE BROCK**'s career as a reporter was tarnished, he lost everything...until he bonded with a mysterious alien symbiote. Together, the two became **VENOM**. More recently, the symbiote has bonded with a myriad of other hosts, including Eddie's son, **DYLAN**. Now, each convinced that the other's bond to Venom would bring about loss and destruction, Eddie and Dylan have gone to **WAR**.

And the battle is far from over! **OLD MAN VENOM**, a version of Dylan from a dystopian future, has arrived in the present to warn his younger self of an unforeseen catastrophic fate. To do so Dylan had to make a deal with the demon **CHTHON** to forge a weapon made of a molten golden alloy in exchange for his name along with several other memories. Confused, but still devoted to his mission, Old Man Venom was led to the next leg of his journey by **DOCTOR STRANGE**, where he was confronted by **LOKI**.

OLD MAN VENOM, A.K.A. FUTURE DYLAN BROCK

MERIDIUS

LOKI

TORUNN GRØNBEKK
WRITER

GERMÁN PERALTA & CAFU
ARTISTS

FRANK D'ARMATA
COLOR ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

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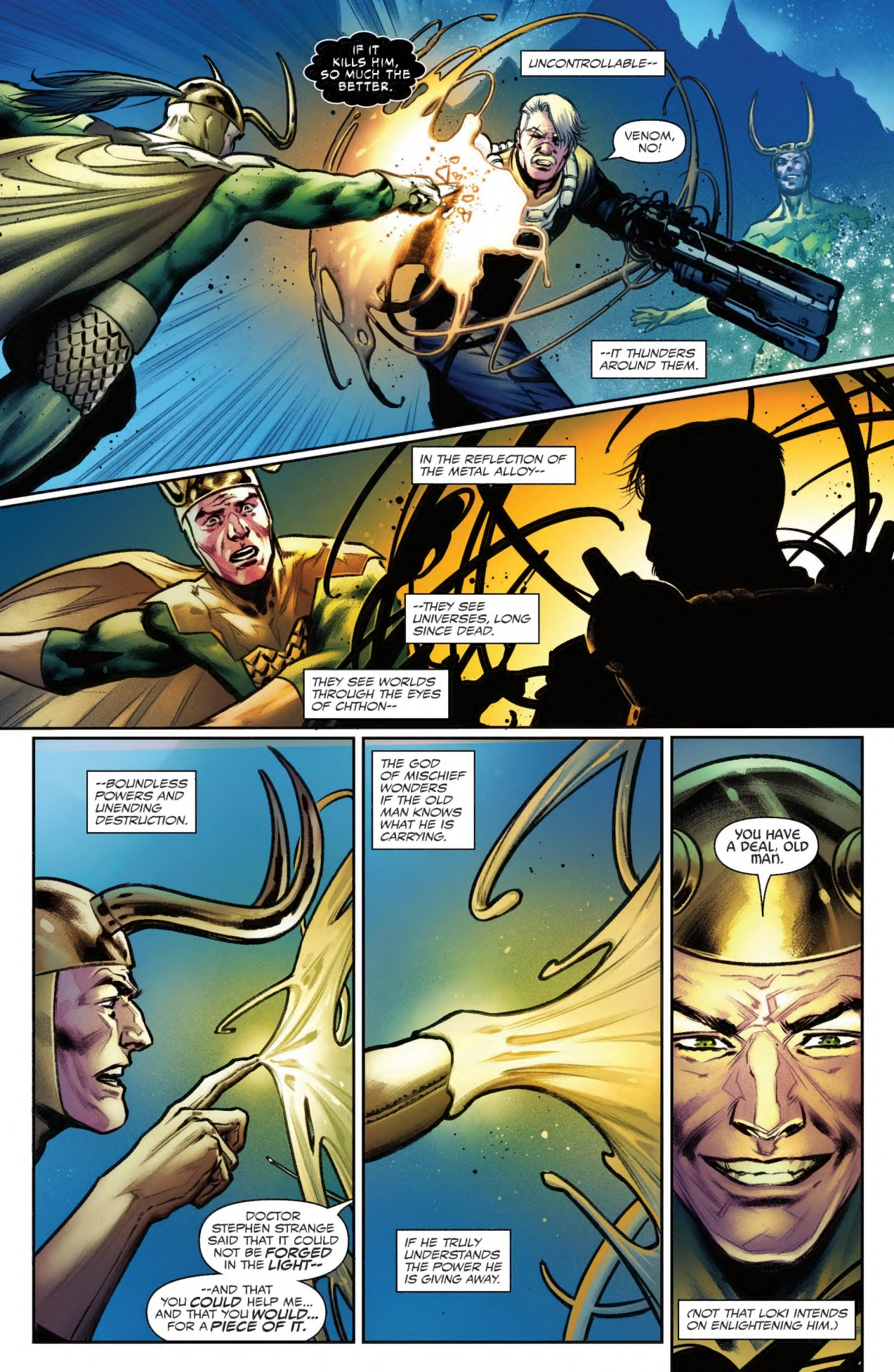
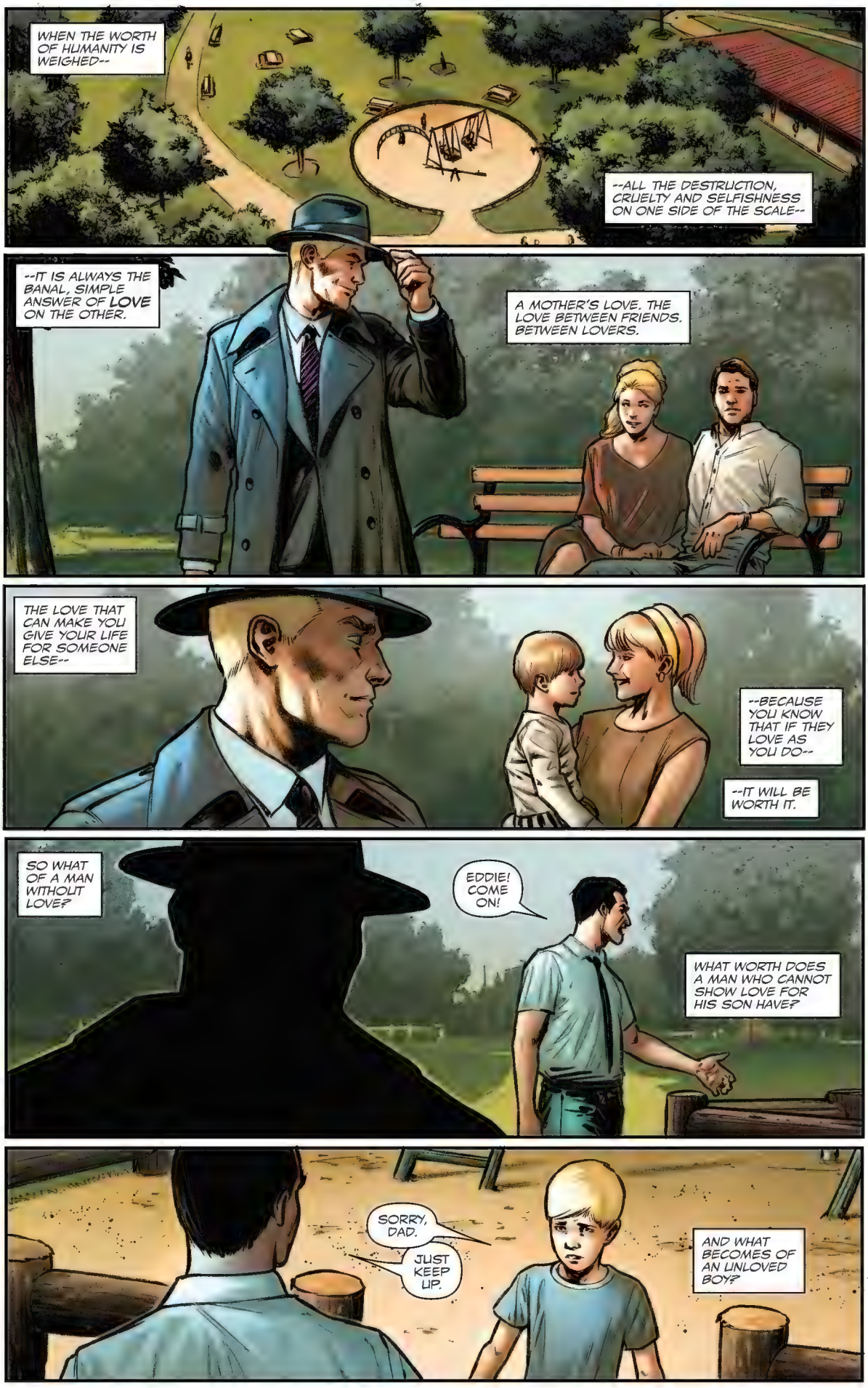
JOTUNHEIM.
WHAT ARE YOU?
WE ARE VENOM.
SURE THING, BUDDY.
THERE IS A MORTAL MAN IN YOU--
--BUT WHAT IS THE OTHER THING?
SYMBIOTE.
SYMBIOTE...? SYMBIOTE.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PARASITE TRYING TO--

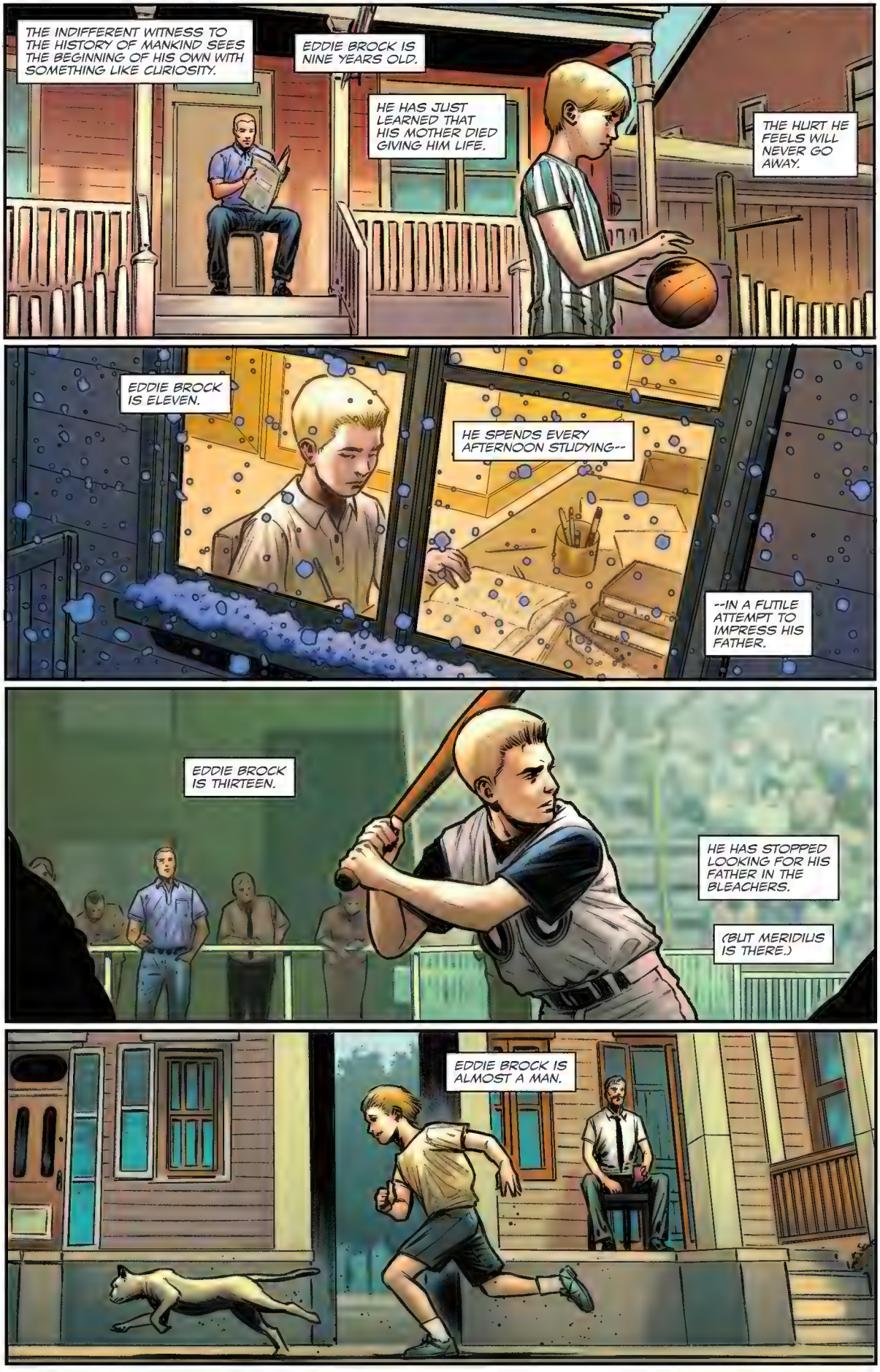
HURRKKK!
--REMARKET ITSELF.
WE NEED HIM, VENOM.
TAKE CARE--
ARARGHHH!

I--
--AM NOT--
NO! PLEASE!
--A PARASITE.
STOHRK

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT A PARASITE WOULD SAY.
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT IS THAT THING YOU ARE CARRYING?
THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE IN YOU. BEYOND THE MORTAL, OF COURSE.
WHAT IS IT? WHO ARE YOU?
I WILL TELL YOU EVERYTHING...
...BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND... I NEED THE SYMBIOTE TO STAY ALIVE. PLEASE DON'T ATTACK HIM.
THAT'S WHAT A PARASITE WOULD MAKE ITS HOST SAY.
HE'S NOT GOING TO LISTEN.
LET US SHOW HIM.
LOKI, I NEED YOUR HELP--
PRESUMPTUOUS, MORTAL.
SHOW HIM THE ALLOY! SHOW HIM THE POWER WE CARRY.
LOKI... LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE...WE HAVE TRAVELED FAR TO SEE YOU. I NEED YOUR HELP TO CREATE A WEAPON...
I DO NOT DO FAVORS, EVEN FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT THREATENING ME.


IF IT KILLS HIM, SO MUCH THE BETTER.
UNCONTROLLABLE--
VENOM, NO!
--IT THUNDERS AROUND THEM.
IN THE REFLECTION OF THE METAL ALLOY--
--THEY SEE UNIVERSES, LONG SINCE DEAD.
THEY SEE WORLDS THROUGH THE EYES OF CHTHON--
--BOUNDLESS POWERS AND UNENDING DESTRUCTION.
DOCTOR STEPHEN STRANGE SAID THAT IT COULD NOT BE FORGED IN THE LIGHT--
--AND THAT YOU COULD HELP ME... AND THAT YOU WOULD... FOR A PIECE OF IT.
THE GOD OF MISCHIEF WONDERS IF THE OLD MAN KNOWS WHAT HE IS CARRYING.
IF HE TRULY UNDERSTANDS THE POWER HE IS GIVING AWAY.
YOU HAVE A DEAL, OLD MAN.
(NOT THAT LOKI INTENDS ON ENLIGHTENING HIM.)


WHEN THE WORTH OF HUMANITY IS WEIGHED--
--ALL THE DESTRUCTION, CRUELTY AND SELFISHNESS ON ONE SIDE OF THE SCALE--
--IT IS ALWAYS THE BANAL, SIMPLE ANSWER OF LOVE ON THE OTHER.
A MOTHER'S LOVE. THE LOVE BETWEEN FRIENDS. BETWEEN LOVERS.
THE LOVE THAT CAN MAKE YOU GIVE YOUR LIFE FOR SOMEONE ELSE--
--BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT IF THEY LOVE AS YOU DO--
--IT WILL BE WORTH IT.
SO WHAT OF A MAN WITHOUT LOVE?
EDDIE! COME ON!
WHAT WORTH DOES A MAN WHO CANNOT SHOW LOVE FOR HIS SON HAVE?
SORRY, DAD.
JUST KEEP UP.
AND WHAT BECOMES OF AN UNLOVED BOY?


THE INDIFFERENT WITNESS TO THE HISTORY OF MANKIND SEES THE BEGINNING OF HIS OWN WITH SOMETHING LIKE CURIOSITY.
EDDIE BROCK IS NINE YEARS OLD.
HE HAS JUST LEARNED THAT HIS MOTHER DIED GIVING HIM LIFE.
THE HURT HE FEELS WILL NEVER GO AWAY.
EDDIE BROCK IS ELEVEN.
HE SPENDS EVERY AFTERNOON STUDYING--
--IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS HIS FATHER.
EDDIE BROCK IS THIRTEEN.
HE HAS STOPPED LOOKING FOR HIS FATHER IN THE BLEACHERS.
(BUT MERIDIUS IS THERE.)
EDDIE BROCK IS ALMOST A MAN.

HE CANNOT HEAR HIS FATHER'S SCREAMS.
EDDIE, NO!
THERE IS PANIC IN THEM.
AS MERIDIUS HEARS IT, HE REALIZES THAT IS WHAT HE IS HERE FOR.
HE IS THERE FOR THE PANIC IN CARL BROCK'S VOICE.
EDDIE!
HE IS THERE FOR THE MOMENT OF CONCERN FOR HIS SON.
OR IS IT ANGER?
OH MY GOD.
DISAPPOINTMENT?
HE IS HERE FOR THE MOMENT EDDIE BROCK GOES FROM NEGLECTED TEENAGER--
EDDIE...
...DAD?
--TO MONSTER.
AND HE WONDERS TO WHAT EXTENT THIS HUMAN HAS AFFECTED HIM--
EDDIE... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
--AND WHAT, IF ANYTHING, REMAINS OF THE EDDIE BROCK WITHIN HIM NOW.

FINDUR FORGE, NIDAVELLIR.
THE OLD MAN CANNOT TASTE THE METAL LINGERING IN THE AIR.
FINDUR IS BURNING BRIGHT TODAY!
(HIS TASTE BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE NOW.)
BUT THE SMELL IS EXTRAORDINARY.
HERE WE ARE.
ARE WE...?
BEHIND THE SCENT OF BURNING COAL AND OXIDIZING METAL--
IT CANNOT BE FORGED IN THE LIGHT, OLD MAN.
SO WE MAKE DO WITH THE SHADOWS.
THE MATERIAL, IF YOU PLEASE.
--THERE IS MAGIC.
THIS FORGE MOLDS MORE THAN METAL.
HOW MANY DO YOU NEED?
AS MANY AS YOU CAN MAKE.
TRUTH, FORTUNE, CURSES AND BLESSINGS ARE HAMMERED INTO THE WEAPONS THEY MAKE.
YOU SHOULD REST, OLD MAN.
THIS WILL TAKE A WHILE.

IT DOES--
--YET THE OLD EYES DO NOT SLEEP.
THESE PRECIOUS HOURS ARE THE LAST OF HIS LIFE.
AND HE WONDERS IF EVERYTHING WAS ALWAYS THIS BEAUTIFUL--
--OR IF IT IS ANOTHER CRUEL TRICK OF DEATH.
I AM DONE.
WE HAD A GOOD RUN, DIDN'T WE?
WE DID, OLD FRIEND.
TWO FOR YOU.
ONE FOR ME.
TWO? TWO...OKAY... IT'LL DO.
INDEED. OUR BARGAIN IS DONE, OLD MAN, BUT I WILL DO YOU A FAVOR.
IT IS NOT EASY TO TRAVEL BETWEEN THE REALMS...BUT WHEN YOU'VE DONE IT ONCE--
--YOU CAN ALWAYS--
--RETURN.

EDDIE BROCK IS ALL GROWN UP.
HE IS A JOURNALIST.
COME ON!
HE HAS MET ANNE WEYING--
--AND THEY ARE IN LOVE.
I GOT THE FRONT PAGE, ANNE!
THE DAILY GLOBE
METRO
HE IS AS HAPPY AS HE WILL EVER BE.
BUT IT DOES NOT LAST.
IN A COUPLE OF YEARS, ANNE WILL BE PREGNANT.
SHE WILL NOT TELL EDDIE.
SHE WILL GIVE THE CHILD TO THE MAN WITHOUT LOVE.
DYLAN. HIS NAME IS DYLAN.
ANOTHER HARD BEGINNING.
ANOTHER HARD LIFE.
I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF HIM, CARL.
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

DYLAN...
WE SHOULD GET ONE FOR CARL TOO.
HE'S NOT GOING TO CARE, HONEY.
MERIDIUS HAD WONDERED ABOUT THE OLD MAN.
DYLAN... OF COURSE.
HOW COULD I HAVE NOT SEEN IT BEFORE?
YOU DON'T KNOW THAT, EDDIE.
HE FOLLOWED HIM TO THE SORCERER--
--AND WATCHED-- WHICH IS ALL HE HAS DONE SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME.
UNTIL NOW.

TIME IS A FICKLE THING. MERIDIUS KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE.
ONE WOULD THINK HIS SON WOULD KNOW AS WELL.
YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE, DYLAN.
WHO... WHO IS DYLAN?
WE HAVE COME TOO FAR TO PLAY GAMES, BOY.
I REMEMBER YOU. FROM A LONG, LONG TIME AGO... YOU WERE THERE...AT THE BATTLE.
IN THAT MOMENT, TWO HORRIFYING TRUTHS OCCUR TO MERIDIUS:
ONE: THE OLD MAN IS FROM THE FUTURE.
WHAT...WHAT BATTLE?
DO NOT PLAY--
TWO: A FUTURE WHERE MERIDIUS IS NOT.
I AM NOT PLAYING.

AAGHHH!
FASTER!
IMPERTINENT BOY!

I AM THE KING IN EVERYTHING.
I AM YOUR FATHER.
MERIDIUS PIERCES VENOM.
YOU WILL NOT TURN YOUR BACK ON ME, BOY.
BURROWING INTO HIS BRAIN--

--UNTIL HE CAN FLIP THROUGH IT LIKE A BOOK.
HOW COULD YOU BE HERE?
NO! STOP IT!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME ANYTHING. I CAN TAKE WHAT I WANT.
AND IN THE MIND OF THE OLD MAN, MERIDIUS SEES THE FUTURE.
HE SEES THE COMING WAR.
AND THE DECADES OF HORROR THAT FOLLOW.
BUT THEN THE PAIN COMES.
UUURGHHH.
DYLAN... YOU ARE DYING.
(HE KNOWS.)
RADIATION FROM A TIME YET TO COME FLOWS FROM VENOM TO MERIDIUS.

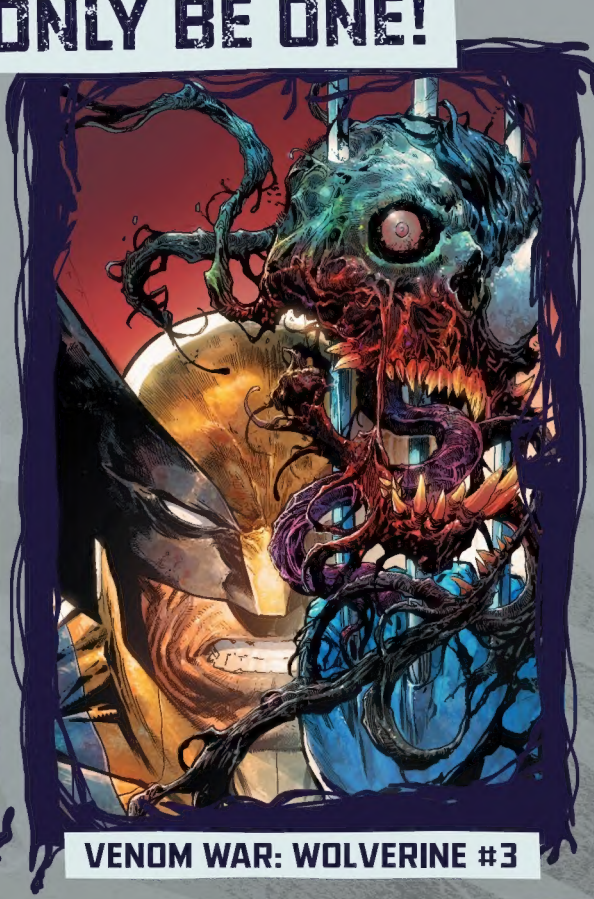
IT MOVES AROUND HIS BEING LIKE POISON IN BLOOD.
WHAT IS THIS?
UNFAMILIAR AND ALL-CONSUMING, THE AGONY LINGERS AS THE OLD MAN ESCAPES.
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHATEVER WE HAVE, VENOM... SHOOT HIM WITH ALL WE HAVE LEFT.
WE JUST NEED TIME TO JUMP!
THERE IS TRIUMPH IN THE OLD MAN AS HE IS FLUNG FORWARD IN TIME.

GRAND GARDEN ARENA, THE PRESENT.
AS HE BREATHES IN THE SCENT OF BURNED SYMBIOTE SKIN--
--AND HEARS THE CRIES OF PEOPLE HE ONCE KNEW--
--AS THE WORST MOMENT IN HIS LIFE PLAYS OUT AROUND HIM--
--THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO.
DIE.
TO BE CONCLUDED IN VENOM WAR #5!

VENOM WAR

THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE!

VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL #3



VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE #3

CHECKLIST

~~08/07/24 VENOM WAR 1~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM 36~~

~~08/14/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 1~~

~~08/21/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 1~~

~~08/28/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 1~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR 2~~

~~09/04/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 2~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM 37~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 1~~

~~09/11/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 1~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 2~~

~~09/18/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: DAREDEVIL 1~~

~~09/25/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 2~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR 3~~

~~10/02/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 3~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM 38~~

~~10/09/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 2~~

~~10/16/24 VENOM WAR: VENOMOUS 3~~

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: CARNAGE 3~~

~~10/23/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: ZOMBIOTES 3~~

~~10/30/24 VENOM WAR: FANTASTIC FOUR 1~~

~~11/06/24 VENOM WAR 4~~

~~11/06/24 VENOM WAR: SPIDER-MAN 4~~

11/13/24 VENOM 39

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: WOLVERINE 3

11/13/24 VENOM WAR: DEADPOOL 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3

11/20/24 VENOM WAR: IT'S JEFF 1

11/27/24 VENOM WAR 5

NEXT

THE WICKED WEB-SLINGERS WANT YOUR ***BRAINS***-- I MEAN, YOUR ***LETTERS!*** SEND YOUR NOTES TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM**. BE SURE TO MARK THEM "OKAY TO PRINT"!

VENOM WAR #5